

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the last paragraph on page 12, line 18 to page 12, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Another embodiment of the apparatus for the decomposition of fluorine compounds according to the invention comprises a reactor having a catalyst for decomposing the fluorine compounds charged upstream therein and a harmful compound removing catalyst charged downstream therein, whereby the two catalysts are contained in the reactor in pile form, one above the other, as shown in Figs. 1, 9 and 10; a heater for heating the catalysts in the reactor; a moisture supplying unit for adding moisture to the fluorine compounds supplied to the reactor; an inert gas supplying unit for adding an inert gas as a diluent gas; and an oxygen supplying unit for adding oxygen or an oxygen-containing gas to a gas stream that flows out from the catalyst for decomposing the fluorine compounds and flows in the harmful component removing catalyst.